



Correspondence

Extramedullary Hematopoiesis in Osteopetrosis

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A 59-year-old African American man with a history of osteoporosis is presented with left hip pain for 1 week. Computed tomography (CT) scan of pelvis and left femur showed non-displaced fracture of the left femoral neck and a lobulated presacral mass of size 5.5×4 cm (Figure). This unexpected finding of presacral mass prompted CT scan of chest and abdomen, which showed multiple paravertebral masses.

Patient refused to surgery and fracture was managed conservatively with non-weight bearing. Bone marrow nuclear scan showed diffusely decreased function in the bone marrow compartment, but no evidence of activity in the presacral/paravertebral region. Subsequent CT guided biopsy of the mass showed trilineage hematopoiesis, confirming extramedullary hematopoiesis. Since patient is asymptomatic, he is being followed up clinically with CT scans.



Figure. CT scan shows lobulated presacral mass (arrow).

Extramedullary hematopoiesis is a compensatory phenomenon and commonly involves liver, spleen and lymph nodes. Bone marrow nuclear scan is useful in diagnosis; however, in occasional cases, biopsy of the mass may be necessary for diagnosis.

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